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Dutch Prince Johan Friso seriously injured in avalanche

VIENNA (AFP) - A son of Dutch Queen Beatrix, Prince Johan Friso, was injured in an avalanche while skiing in the western Austrian resort of Lech yesterday, the royal family said.

The prince was in a stable condition "but not out of danger" in an Austrian hospital after being caught in a wave of onrushing snow, the Dutch royal house said in a statement from The Hague, quoting doctors treating him.

The mayor of Lech, Ludwig Muxel, speaking to Austrian radio ORF, said the 43-year-old Dutch royal spent some 20 minutes under the snow before he was rescued and had to be resuscitated.



Prince Friso was then evacuated by helicopter to Innsbruck University Hospital, the Austria Press Agency said.

The accident apparently occurred shortly after noon.

Continued on page 3

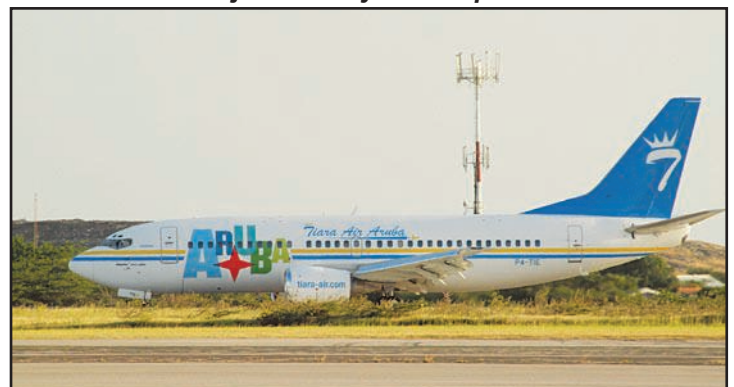
Isn't she a beauty?" A warm welcome for Tiara Air Aruba's 737-300 "Arawak"

It was an exuberant, excited crowd of island officials, media and Tiara Air Aruba staff that waited on the tarmac to greet the newest edition to Aruba's home grown airline, their first 150 seating Boeing 737-330 jet dubbed "Arawak" late Thursday afternoon, February 16.

With the bright Aruba sun peeking over its tailfin, pilots Jose Tabar and Luis Espana did a low circuit of the airport to show off the spanking new paint job featuring the Aruba brand next to the Tiara Air logo, eliciting a resounding cheer from all present.



Alejandro Muyale and pilots



ting the ceremonial ribbon marking the beginning of anew era for the airline. A blessing by Padre Calixto preceded the gather making their way to the V.I.P. room of the Reina Beatrix International Airport to celebrate

"Friends and colleagues, this is a great day for us," Alejandro told the gathering, "but

also for Aruba as Tiara takes delivery of its first jet. Believe or not; it's here!" He explained that in five years of operation, Tiara has proved it is possible to have a successful local carrier, largely by growing slowly and through careful, strategic decisions.

Continued on page 2

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A warm welcome for Tiara Air Aruba's 737-300 "Arawak"

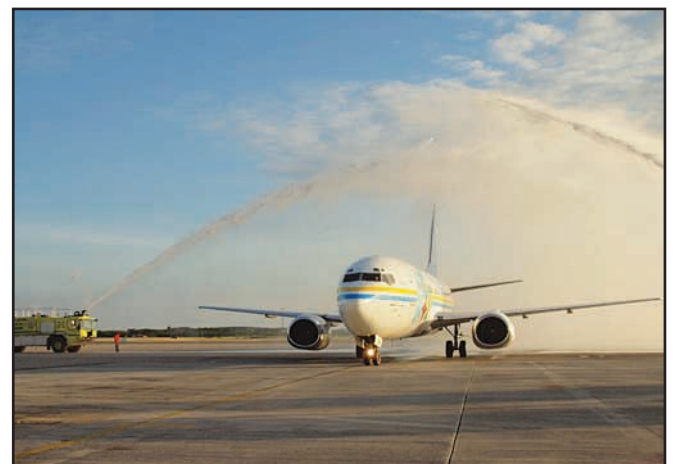
Continued from page 1



Isn't she gorgeous



We did it!



Father Celixta blesses the plane

"We now know we are ready for the next phase. We will go bigger and further, without forgetting where we came from."

He also explained that Tiara

is on board with the government's vision of Aruba becoming a hub for the travel between the Americas and Europe, as well as the importance and



Tiara cuts the ribbon

proudly offer our passengers the feeling of being in Aruba the moment you meet Tiara; we strive to be competitive yet

offering attention and services many airlines have eliminated."

by Rosalie Klein



"Where Everyone is Welcome"

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prestige of having its own branded airline servicing important markets in the U.S. The airline began with only 2 turbo prop planes servicing local destinations, steadily increasing their destinations which opening up provinces to Aruban travelers as well as providing convenience for many who cared to travel to the island.

With the acquisition of the Boeing 737 they expect to open up Medellin, Colombia and have already been granted the rights to a Boston route. "We will slowly build our fleet and our schedule to become a stabilizing force in Aruba's tourism. The airline will



SATURDAY



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Congratulations Dutch Prince Johan Friso...

Continued from page 1



Shoco
Aruba's
National Bird

Congratulations to Aruba's adorable but dignified Shoco, an indigenous species of the American Burrowing Owl. Aruba's Minister of Social & Economic Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hoeyboer-Winklaar has made it official, as of Thursday, February 16, 2012, you are now our national bird!

The prince was accompanied by another skier, Muxel told a press conference, but nobody else was believed to have been injured in the avalanche, according to a press statement from Lech.

Innsbruck University Hospital confirmed to AFP that the Dutch prince had been brought there for treatment, using the same terms as the royal house.

"He's here. He's stable but his condition is still life-threatening," a spokesman said, referring all other inquiries to the royal press office.

"According to the doctors treating Prince Friso, a prognosis will only be possible in a few days," the royal family added from The Hague.

It added that Queen Beatrix and the prince's wife Mabel

Wisse Smit were at his side in hospital.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte also told Dutch news agency ANP yesterday that he had spoken to the Queen.

"I told her all of the Netherlands express their sympathy."

Much of western Austria has been under a level-four avalanche alert -- the second highest -- over the past few days following heavy snowfall, with at least half a dozen people caught in avalanches between Thursday and Friday.

According to ANP, Queen Beatrix, her elder son Crown Prince Willem-Alexander, his wife Maxima and their three daughters arrived in Lech on Sunday.

Prince Johan Friso is the second son of Queen Beatrix

and the brother of Willem-Alexander.

After he married in 2004 without the government's permission, he was excluded from the royal family and is no longer seen as an heir to the throne, but he keeps the title Prince of Orange-Nassau.

Johan Friso has been chief financial director of Britain's URENCO group -- dealing with nuclear fuel supply -- since 2011, and previously worked with the investment bank Goldman Sachs.

He also received a degree in aeronautical engineering from the University of Delft and in economics from Erasmus University in Rotterdam, according to his biography on URENCO's website.



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Body searches will continue this weekend and for the rest of the Carnival period

ORANJESTAD -- The Ministry of Public Justice and the Aruba Police Force has informed the community that the police will continue to apply the legal preventive personal body searches; search clothing, pockets, vehicles, bags and handbags. This measure is not new to the Aruban public as the police have used this on more occasions as a control and preventive measure in certain areas. The goal is to ascertain whether there are illegal drugs or firearms on anyone's person. The measure proved very successful during the past weekend. Various arrests were made with several firearms and drugs confiscated by the police as a result of the body searches!

The police intend to apply the body search

measure at the following events:

-Carnival Parade in San Nicolaas

-Carnival Parade in Oranjestad

The police also remind us all that the "faya Bo haya" policy remains in effect, and if it results that the person has an outstanding unpaid traffic fine, the person will be arrested and incarcerated in the KIA jail immediately!

Our Police Force is working diligently to ensure the safety of the general public. They expect the community to understand and cooperate with all efforts by the police to maintain order and tranquility.

Everyone is responsible to do his/her part in contributing to a pleasant and safe Carnival

Talented participants at Marriott Carnival Queen election

Geraldine Geerman crowned Reina of Marriott



Marriott Queen Geraldine

It's Carnival time in Aruba and Marriott like no other knows how to celebrate carnival. On February 15, 2012 the Marriott organized a Queen election. From the various departments at the three Aruba Marriott properties ten participants signed up to compete for Marriott Carnival Queen. In addition 2 male duos entered for the Prins y Pancho title.

The ten ladies who shined for the evening were: Heissi Dugarte (Market Place), Dessline Loefstop (Activities MVC), Bianela Santana (Housekeeping ASC), Aixa Albertus (Housekeeping ASC), Vicky Benavides (Recreation MVC), Leidy Rojas (Captains Galey/ Pavillion), Jasmin Henriquez (Engineering ASC), Geraldine Geerman (AYS), Yohanna Correa (FD ASC) and Christy-ann Christiaans (Accounting). The Prins and Pancho contestants were Ryan Martijn & Claudio Peña (LPO MVC) and Meldrick Solognier (Activities MVC) & Mike Rodriguez (FO AOC).

All participants were judged on their general performance: a speech focused on hospitality and a 10 minute show to wow the audience. Members of the jury Rona Coster, Kevin van Om-

meren, Pierre Angely Wever and President Rachelle Lacle graded the participants on articulation and voice intonation, body language, facial expression, costume, creativity and choreography of the show.

Beautiful Carnival costumes, spectacular shows and a great ambiente were the ingredients of the evening.

The title of Marriott Carnival Queen went to Geraldine Geerman of At Your Service. She provided a great speech about hospitality and her show was related to her job and the learning principles of Marriott. The first runner up title went to Dessline Loefstop of Activities MVC. Meldrick Solognier (Activities MVC) & Mike Rodriguez (FO AOC) were crowned Prins & Pancho of Marriott with their funny show dancing on the tunes of "I am sexy and I know it". The event was presented by Johnny Kock and live entertainment provided by local band Dushi Band.

The winners re-



First runner up Dessline

ceived a cash prize, breakfast for two at La Vista, a watch and movie tickets. MASHA PABIEN to all winners and a big Thank You to the participants and the project team Shuraima Henriquez and Hely Regales.



Prins & Pancho Winners Meldrick - Mike

CARNIVAL SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 18:

* **Jouvert Morning** - 4 a.m.

* **San Nicolas Grand Parade** - 12 p.m.

Sunday, February 19:

* **Oranjestad Grand Parade** - 10 a.m.

Monday, February 20:

* **Carnaval Monday (national holiday)**

* **Momito - San Nicolas**

Tuesday, February 21:

* **Burn Momo (closing of Aruba's Carnaval season)**

- Aruba Entertainment Center - 7 p.m.

Coast Guard Intercepts 5,000 Pounds of Drugs in the Caribbean



The U.S. Coast Guard announced yesterday that it intercepted and seized 4,000 pounds of cocaine and 940 pounds of marijuana while patrolling in the Caribbean.

The drugs were seized by the Coast Guard Cutter Dallas during two separate incidents when the crew witnessed members of two go-fast boats tossing bales into the water, officials said.

In December the Coast Guard found a go-fast boat north of Honduras with 77 packages of cocaine, estimated to be worth \$48 million, according to the military force.

The four aboard were transferred to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

Later in the month, the Coast Guard also intercepted a ship southwest of Jamaica. It found 16 packages of marijuana, valued at \$852,000.

The Coast Guard said they took the detained smugglers to Jamaican Defense Force officials.

The drugs were offloaded from the cutter in Key West on Thursday.

The Cutter Dallas is on its last patrol before it will be decommissioned in March.

The combined value of the drugs was estimated to be over \$48 million.

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Minister de Meza announces changes to free zone legislation



ORANJESTAD -- The State Ordinance Free Zones 2000 was enacted over 10 years ago and a decision has been made to introduce changes to improve the attractiveness of the free zone, without compromising any of the integrity aspects.

The free zone is an important instrument to attract foreign investors and diversify the Aruban economy. Aruba is an attractive location for foreign investment due to its geographic location, transportation network, attractive fis-

cal tariffs, safety and security, political stability, etc. The free zone is of great importance for positioning Aruba as a hub for Dutch companies, and the rest of the European Union, wishing to enter the Latin-American market and visa versa.

In anticipation of formal changes to the law, the Minister of Finance, Communications, Utilities and Energy, Ing. Mike de Meza, has approved a policy document encompassing the following points.

The definition of approved

service activities has been clarified. This brings the law in line with definitions used by other countries, and expands the possibilities. Services are the quickest growing sector in the free zone. The exclusion of financial services is unchanged.

Service companies are no longer required to have an office in the current designated free zones. This means that they can have an office elsewhere on Aruba, with approval from Free Zone Aruba (FZA) NV and the tax authorities, and

taking specific rules into consideration.

The possibility to sell to the local market will be expanded. If a company has a special permit to sell to the local market, the sales to the local market may reach a maximum of 25% of the turnover (on a yearly basis). The percentage will not be reduced over the years, as is currently the case.

The policy document can be found on the Free Zone Aruba (FZA) NV website: www.freezonearuba.com

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Blow for Merkel as scandal-hit president resigns

BERLIN (AFP) - Chancellor Angela Merkel vowed Friday to find a cross-party candidate after Germany's president resigned over a corruption probe, dealing her a blow as she battles to lead Europe out of its debt crisis.

Merkel announced talks with major political parties to find a consensus candidate to replace political ally Christian Wulff, who earlier stepped down after prosecutors sought the lifting of his legal immunity.

"We want to hold talks with the aim of being able to propose a joint candidate for the next president of the Federal Republic of Germany," Merkel said expressing "great respect" but also "deep regret" over Wulff's decision.

Prosecutors in Lower Saxony state where Wulff was formerly premier said late Thursday they had taken the unprecedented move of ask-

ing parliament to lift his immunity to probe allegations he had enjoyed favours from a film producer friend.

Wulff, 52, who has been in the job for less than two years, said in a brief but dramatic TV statement earlier with his wife Bettina by his side that he had made mistakes but had always been honest.

He said Germany needed "a president that enjoys the trust of not only a majority, but a broad majority of citizens".

"The developments of the last days and weeks have shown that this trust and therefore my effectiveness have been damaged," he said.

A fellow member of Merkel's conservative Christian Democratic (CDU) party and her hand-picked choice for head of state, he had faced almost daily media reports that he accepted favours as

premier of Lower Saxony.

It is the second time in two years that Germany's president -- who largely plays a ceremonial role but who also acts as a kind of moral arbiter -- has quit early into the five-year term.

Merkel, who cancelled a trip to Rome Friday for eurozone crisis talks with premier Mario Monti, said she would first speak to government parties and then the opposition to find a replacement.

Both the opposition Social Democrats and Green party welcomed the offer.

Neither the lingering eurozone crisis nor the Wulff scandal seem thus far to have dented the popularity of Merkel or her party with recent polls giving both a strong thumbs-up.

Chavez calls opposition candidate a 'low-life pig'



Chavez (L), Capriles (R)

CARACAS (AFP) - President Hugo Chavez has referred to the opposition candidate for Venezuela's highest office as a "low-life... pig" in a sharp attack at the start of this year's election season.

"My mission... (will be) to take off the mask, you low-life, because no matter how much you disguise it, low-life, you have a pig's tail, a

pig's ears, and you snort like a pig," Chavez said Thursday in a speech broadcast on state radio and television, referring to opposition candidate Henrique Capriles.

Capriles, 39, easily won Sunday's primary elections to be the opposition's sole candidate but now faces a tough battle against the firebrand president ahead of the October 7 election.

Earlier this week Chavez, in power since 1999, accused Capriles of being "the candidate of the bourgeois, of capitalism, of imperialism."

Capriles, a moderate who describes his politics as center-left, has argued that Venezuela can replicate Brazil's model of economic development, which mixes free market economic reforms and enhanced social programs.

Chavez, 57, a leftist ally of Cuba and harsh critic of the United States, remains popular among the working class, backed by resources including state media, and food and fuel subsidies.

HK leader candidate blames wife for 'underground palace'

China's reported favourite to become Hong Kong's next leader was under pressure to withdraw his candidacy on Friday after an illegal "underground palace" was found in his wife's home. But Henry Tang vowed to fight on after local media revealed the unauthorised basement den featuring a wine cellar, a Japanese-style bath, entertainment suite and a workout room at the upmarket residential property. Authorities confirmed the illegal basement was around 2,250 square feet (209 square metres) in area. Many of Hong Kong's seven million people live in spaces a quarter of that size. Hong Kong is one of the most densely populated cities in the world and authorities regularly prosecute residents for making illegal additions to their homes.

The 59-year-old heir of a textile fortune said the illegal structure was his wife's idea, after media descended on the house and hired cranes to get a bird's-eye view of a glass-bottomed swimming pool above the basement.

"I apologise to all Hong Kong people," an emotional Tang told a hastily convened press conference late Thursday. It was my wife's idea and I knew they were illegal. Since we were experiencing a low ebb in our marriage...I did not handle the matter swiftly. I take full responsibility for the incident."

The well-known wine lover however refused to quit the race, saying he should be judged by his business-friendly manifesto. Legal experts said he could face jail over the scandal, making him ineligible for office.

Grape-flavored Infants' Tylenol recalled

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Johnson & Johnson's subsidiary McNeil issued a recall Friday of 574,000 bottles of an infants version of its popular Tylenol pain and fever relief drug over problems with the dosing system.

The recall applies specifically to one-ounce bottles of grape-flavored Infants' Tylenol Oral Suspension distributed nationwide in the United States.

Tylenol maker McNeil Consumer Healthcare said it had received "a small number of complaints" from consumers who reported trouble with the dosing system which comes with the bottles.

Some reported that a built-in flow restrictor meant to control doses could be pushed into the bottle making it difficult to measure the cor-

rect dose for infants.

It said that if the flow restrictor remains in place there is no risk from using the medicine.

But it issued the recall as a precautionary measure.

"No adverse events associated with this action have been reported to date and the risk of a serious adverse medical event is remote," McNeil said.

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International News

Franklin, Wonder to sing at Whitney Houston funeral

NEWARK (AFP) - Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder will sing today at the private funeral of pop diva Whitney Houston, where her "Bodyguard" co-star Kevin Costner is also expected to pay tribute.

The service, in New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, New Jersey, where Houston sang as a child, is by invitation only and fans have been respectfully asked to stay away for fear of crowds disrupting the event.

Houston's death in Los Angeles on the eve of the Grammy Awards last weekend at the age of 48 shocked the world, drawing an outpouring of grief from fans and contemporaries.

Clive Davis, Houston's producer and early mentor,

will be at the funeral as will the late star's cousin and fellow singer Dionne Warwick and civil rights leader Reverend Jesse Jackson.

"She had that special something," Jackson told CNN on Friday. "We won't be there tomorrow because she died, we'll be there tomorrow because she lived," he said, recalling Houston's "huge voice," and "very personable" demeanor.

Pastor and gospel singer Marvin Winans, a friend of Houston's from Detroit, will lead the funeral and give the eulogy.

Houston sold more than 170 million records during a

long career derailed by substance abuse. Results from her autopsy may not be made public for up to eight weeks, as speculation rages that the singer may have died from a lethal cocktail of prescription drugs and alcohol.

Saturday's private service -- the church has a capacity of 1,500 -- is meant to be a homecoming and celebration of Houston's astonishing career, but some fans had hoped for a large public memorial event at a nearby stadium.

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie has ordered flags flown at half-mast on Saturday in honor of the late singer.

Newark police director Samuel DeMaio advised fans to stay at home and watch the funeral, which will be broadcast on television and streamed online.

Obama campaign raises \$29 mn in January



WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama's re-election campaign said Friday it had raised \$29.1 million in January, with 98 percent of the donations worth \$250 or less.

The campaign made the announcement on micro-blogging website Twitter.

Fundraising is crucial in US elections because it allows candidates to spend months campaigning across the country and to buy television ads in multiple markets that spread their message and tar their opponents.

Republican frontrunner Mitt Romney raised \$24 million during the last three months of 2011, his campaign team said last month.

The use of so-called

super-PACS (political action committees), which have no cap on donations and can raise unlimited funds without having official ties to a candidate's political campaign, has upped the stakes in 2012.

Obama opposed a 2010 Supreme Court ruling that gutted campaign finance laws and allowed companies and individuals to make unlimited donations to outside groups backing candidates.

But in a reversal this month, the Obama campaign encouraged wealthy Democrats to contribute to a supportive super-PAC, arguing that Democrats could not be "unilaterally disarmed" in the face of a Republican cash flood.

Syrians brave backlash to rally against Assad

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Thousands of Syrians rallied Friday for Bashar al-Assad's ouster, as the embattled president's forces unleashed their heaviest pounding yet of Homs in a brutal bid to crush dissent, monitors said.

The protesters emerged from mosques after the main weekly Muslim prayers, including in Damascus, following a call by Internet-based

activists for a rally for a "new phase of popular resistance."

"Get out! Get out!" they chanted at gatherings across the unrest-swept country, according to YouTube videos.

"We want revenge against Bashar and Maher," some shouted, in reference to the president's brother, who heads the feared Fourth Armoured Division.

Activists said the scattered

protests were among the most widespread in Damascus of the 11-month uprising against the Assad regime inspired by the Arab awakening.

The protesters turned out after the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly backed an Arab League initiative calling on Assad to step aside, and ahead of a visit by a Chinese envoy pushing for peace.

Assad, in remarks to visiting Mauritanian Prime Minister Moulaye Ould Mohamed Laghdaf, said reforms have to be synchronised with a "return to peace".

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 26 people were killed on Friday, one of them at a demonstration that was fired upon in the capital.

At least 10,000 people demonstrated in the southern town of Dael, in Daraa province, where the protest movement was born in March 2011, said the Britain-based monitor.

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San Nicolas alight with C



SAN NICOLAS -- Aruba's big finish to Carnival is coming up this weekend, and 6 consecutive days and nights of revelry began Wednesday evening with the Hebbe Happening at the Oranjestad, and then continued on Thursday with the San Nicolas Lighting Parade.

11 groups with a total of over 100 dancers will parade through the narrow streets, sporting bright lights and fluorescent makeup. The band Perfect Sound and Nacimiento, led the parade with Last Lap; for the uninitiated, the spectators are welcome to march and dance moves, (very often inspired by the band).

The San Nicolas Parada di Luchas is a recent addition to the season, an event of coordinated and costumed carnival during the Lenten period. This tradition has been enthusiastically kept alive on Aruba.

by Rosalie Kleir



Carnival 58 Parada di Luz!



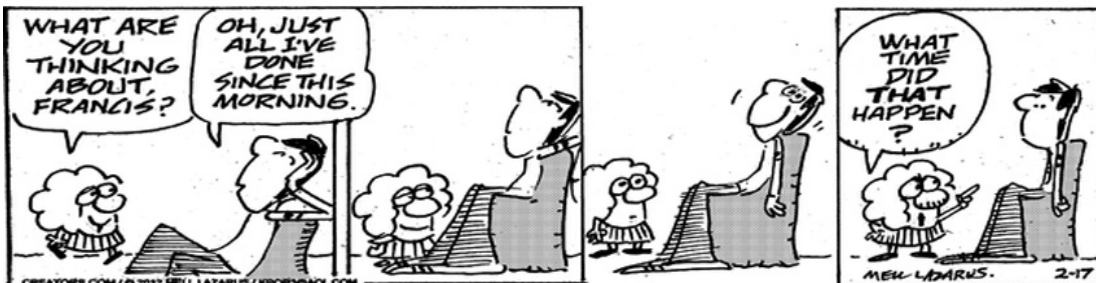
er 2350 participants wended their way
 orting costumes and floats with flashing
 o enhance the after-dark ambiance.
 Aruba's Carnival Queen 58, Lynette Do
 Duro Band bringing up the rear for the
 is is a section of the parade where all
 h along and show off their best carnival
 ed by an excessive imbibing of beer.)
 Luz is a cozy, fun Carnival parade, a fairly
 nd heralds the end of nearly two months
 rousing before the advent of the somber
 ates back to pre-Christian times and is
 uba!

COMICS

PICKLES



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CALVIN and HOBBS



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ACROSS

1. Racetrack circuits
5. Friend of Antony in "Antony and Cleopatra"
9. Columbus's starting point
14. ___ dixit
15. Woman, to Jerry Lewis
16. Run off to marry
17. Walk out of the casino no poorer
19. Of a military branch
20. 1895 GBS play
22. Ampersand
23. Actor Beatty
24. Norma played by Sally
25. "___ voyage!"
26. Wearers of the same tartan
28. JFK's A.G.
31. Rain heavily
34. 1923 GBS play
36. He played Robin in 1938
38. Mine yield
39. Stop, as an engine
40. 1913 GBS play
42. Lots and lots
43. English river
44. High
45. School subj.
47. Young Cratchit
48. Fond du ___
49. Baby food
52. 1920 GBS play
58. Soissons sayonara
59. Be a snoop
60. All in
61. Sibling, to Joel Chandler Harris
62. Contradict
63. German novelist

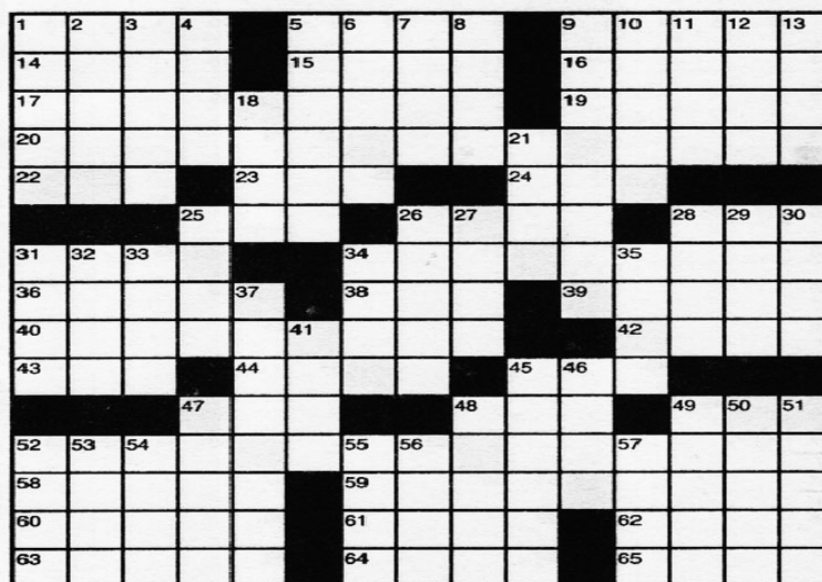
- Hermann
64. Energetic
65. Takes notice of

DOWN

1. Where Tripoli is
2. Kitchen garb
3. Alias: abbr.
4. Madonna's hubby before Guy
5. Craps winner
6. Ranted
7. Baltic river
8. Soundtrack coordination, for short
9. Team goals
10. With wings
11. It makes the world go 'round
12. Semiprecious stone
13. Command to a broker
18. Vegas game

21. Firth of Clyde island
25. ___ Bones ("Sleepy Hollow" character)
26. "The Brady Bunch" matriarch
27. Financial claim against property
28. Stir up sediment
29. Disconcert
30. Had memorized
31. ___ le Pew
32. Large African antelope
33. Hankering
34. Dirt
35. Good-natured ridicule
37. Cartographer's concern
41. Mary's pet
45. Pastry store

46. '60s protest singer Phil
47. Elder and alder
48. 1969 Men's Wimbledon Champion
49. Tomato preparation
50. En masse
51. Diary keeper Samuel
52. "Thirty days September..."
53. Nicolle's "Desperate Housewives" role
54. Affected haughtiness
55. Bull Run victors
56. Holliday's buddy
57. Partner of ends



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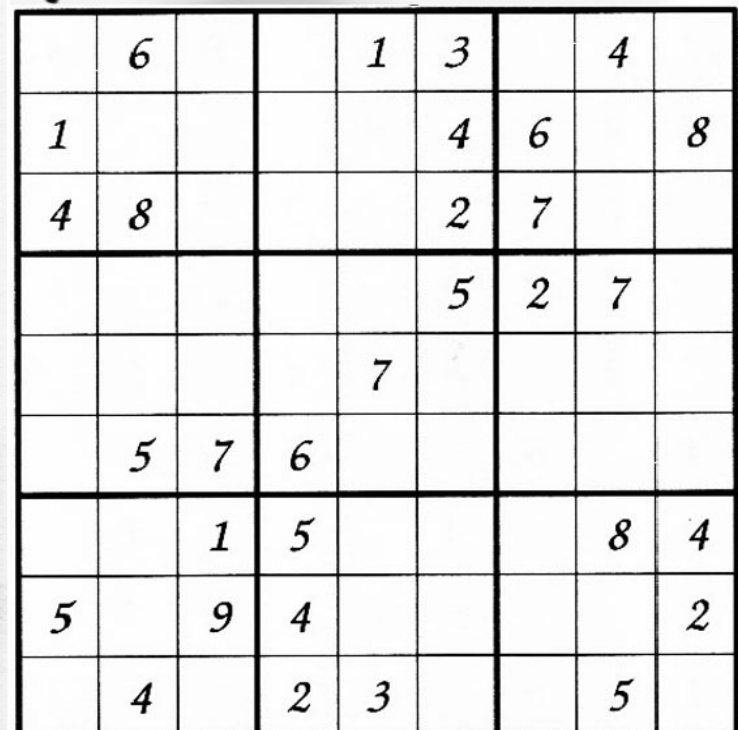
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T	8	E	9	6	S	I	L	Z
I	6	T	8	Z	9	L	S	E
S	E	8	6	L	I	T	Z	9
9	L	Z	S	T	E	8	I	6
E	I	L	Z	9	6	S	8	T
8	Z	9	T	S	L	E	6	I
6	T	S	E	I	8	Z	9	L

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance

Aruba Monetary Policy for February 2012

ORANJESTAD -- During the meeting of its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of February 2, 2012, the Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) decided, based upon the available economic and monetary data, to maintain the reserve requirement rate at 11 percent, and to leave the advance rate percentage of 1 percent unchanged. One of the main considerations for this policy stance is that net foreign assets (including revaluation differences of gold and foreign exchange holdings) increased in December 2011 (+1.2 percent) compared to December 2010.

The ensuing level of net foreign assets is adequate considering the benchmarks ap-

plied by the CBA. One such benchmark is that the levels of both net foreign assets and official reserves are above 3 months of the coverage level of current account payments.

In December 2011, housing mortgages and business loans were, respectively, 4.9 percent and 3.7 percent higher compared to December 2010. On the other hand, consumer credit decreased by 0.5 percent. For the year 2011 as a whole, the credit growth amounted to Afl. 75.6 million or 2.7 percent, which is in line with CBA's estimation.

In addition, the 12-month inflation reached 4.4 percent in 2011 and is forecasted at 4.2 percent for 2012, mainly be-

cause of the effects of price hikes in energy prices in mid-2011. The inflation excluding the food and energy components (the so-called core-inflation) stood at 1.2 percent in December 2011, and the inflation differential with the U.S.A. reached a similar level (0.4 percent in 2010). The difference between the CBA's advance rate and the Federal Funds rate remained virtually unchanged, thereby not requiring changes in the CBA's advance rate.

The CBA will continue to closely follow the developments in the economic and monetary fundamentals. The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled for March 1, 2012.

Dutch TNT Express rejects UPS offer

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Dutch mail group TNT Express said yesterday that it had rejected a 4.9 billion euro (\$6.4 billion) unsolicited offer by US-based parcel and logistics giant UPS.

TNT Express' supervisory and executive boards "rejected the proposal" after "having carefully considered the in-

dicative proposal and explored its rationale, merits and risks for shareholders and all other stakeholders," a statement said.

The group has informed UPS but continued to remain in discussions, it added.

TNT Express operates in more than 200 countries and employs 83,000 people.

US Congress passes compromise payroll tax deal

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Congress approved a compromise bill yesterday extending a payroll tax cut and jobless benefits through 2012, ending a bitter fight over a measure aimed at boosting the tepid US recovery. The measure sailed through the House of Representatives and the Senate with broad bipartisan support, despite grousing on both sides of the aisle over concessions made in a deal reached the day before.

The House voted 293 to 132 in favor, and the Senate quickly followed with a yes vote of 60 to 36.

The bill now goes to the

White House for President Barack Obama's signature. He has made passage of the extension through the end of the year a top priority, but the measure had long been stalled in a deeply divided Congress over how to pay for it.

"Americans are waiting and watching," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said on the Senate floor shortly before the vote. Our economy is still fragile. It is crucial we prevent a tax increase on 160 million Americans. These are working Americans. It also protects the safety of millions of Americans who can't find work."

Source: ECB swapping Greek debt

FRANKFURT (AFP) - The European Central Bank has embarked on a debt swap program in what could mark a crucial step towards a much wider deal to save Greece from bankruptcy, sources told AFP said yesterday.

The 17-nation eurozone is putting the finishing touches to a 130-billion-euro (\$171-billion) bailout package set to be approved in Brussels on Monday.

And that deal is expected to include a legal requirement for private creditors to accept losses of 100 billion euros on

their bond holdings in order to avoid a ruinous default by Greece.

The problem for the ECB is that it has amassed holdings of nearly 50 billion euros in Greek bonds via a bond-buying program started in 2010 to help debt-racked eurozone countries that were finding it difficult to drum up financing the normal way via the financial markets.

But it insists it cannot take losses on those holdings because that would be tantamount to financing governments, a

practice that is banned under the ECB's statutes.

So in order to get round the problem, the ECB has begun swapping its bonds for new ones with an identical face value but different serial numbers, allowing it to stay out of the deal if Greece goes ahead with plans to force creditors to take writedowns on their holdings, the source explained.

Greece's private creditors are being asked to write off about half of the 200 billion euros' worth of government bonds they hold to help cut the country's total debt burden to a sustainable level.

The ECB, too, has come under pressure to contribute to a deal, as the restructuring by private creditors is unlikely by itself to bring down Greece's debt to the target of 120 percent of GDP in 2020 from 160 percent at present.

But the ECB refuses to do so, even if bank officials, notably president Mario Draghi, have recently appeared to suggest that the ECB may be open to foregoing profits made on the holdings of Greek bonds.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

BREW FAB SLAP
AIDA CALEB HERO
BLINDALLEY UNTO
YET IRS SPATTER
CATER ALT
NATURE INSPECT
ALARY APES RHEA
SEPT NCO BARN
AREA ANON GUISE
TRIGGER REGRET
NOH DEANS
REDCOAT ICE SKI
OLEA SHADETREES
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Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.81
Britain	GBP	2.75	2.80	2.86
Switzerland	CHF	193.82	194.54	195.34
Netherlands	EUR	232.25	234.37	236.72
Sweden	SEK	25.55	26.27	27.07
Denmark	DKK	30.57	31.29	32.09
Norway	NOK	30.30	31.02	31.82
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Memoirs of Whitney Houston on Aruba



Nancy remembers Whitney

On this day of Whitney Houston's funeral, many devoted fans will be mourning the loss of this great talent that touched their lives and her untimely death at 48. Few are aware that she vacationed for a long weekend on Aruba in September of 1989, but Nancy Brete, who owned and operated a sailboat called the Wavedancer with her husband Eric, remembers Whitney Houston vividly, as she spent 6 hours with the star during a private charter.

"It was so funny how this happened," Nancy recalls, "one of our reps got talking with Whitney's personal assistant, Robin Crawford, on the beach and then I get a phone call where I was given something of a third degree about how much crew we had, who would be on board, and so on."

The reason why was that Whitney, who would annually escape to Anguilla, had concerns about being mobbed when taking the trip. It appears one year the boat

owners had bragged to everyone about the upcoming trip with such a famous guest, and when she and her friends arrived to take the trip, they found a crew of 20, when there should only have been perhaps 3, waiting to get autographs and photos with a superstar.

Houston ended up in Aruba when Hugo, a category 5 hurricane, forced her to change her usual venue. Nancy had to promise the utmost discretion, and they moved their boat from in front of the Holiday Inn to pick her up at what was then Golden Tulip, now the Radisson Resort.

"At first, I admit, she seemed a bit 'standoffish', but I think it was just because she had been so overwhelmed by people in the past," observed Nancy. "She and Robin and another childhood friend, Sylvia, stretched out on the front canvas, and we kept to the back of the boat. As we passed the Manchebo Point, the rough



Nancy and Whitney Houston

waters began splashing over the bow, so they moved back with us, and Whitney proved to be very friendly and chatty, not acting the least bit like a diva." She didn't drink a drop of alcohol, although bar was included, was perfectly happy with a simple lunch of sandwiches, and didn't snorkel or swim, she just wanted to relax and sail the coastline with her best friends.

"They were only 3, and they were all very sweet and nice. We had installed a special speaker system so the music would sound good while sailing and Whitney had brought a bunch of tapes of favorites, which she left us as a gift. She even let us listen to a tape of her next album, yet unreleased. Regretfully, she told us she couldn't let us keep it." No taking of photographs during the voyage was another stricture, though they were finally happy to pose with Nancy at the end: 3 girlhood buddies with their new friend. Nearly 23 years later, she still has that treasured photo in pristine condition.

One of the outstanding moments of the trip for Nancy was when Eric put "The Greatest Love of All" on the stereo; Nancy and

Whitney were laying out on lounges chatting, and the star began singing along. "She was just belting it out right there on the boat! What a voice! What a talent! No studio mikes or enhancements, it just gave me goose bumps; I still get them thinking about it."

One of the most interesting conversations Nancy recalls was with Robin, and how Whitney's "team" had planned out her career to not overtax her, and to expose her talent in a way that would endure over decades, rather than let her burn out as many producers and promoters would have liked. "They were just considering her taking a plunge into a movie career, and we know how that

worked out. They knew she could do it all."

"They wanted a 4 hour tour, but when it was nearly done, Whitney asked to extend it to 6, and we were only too happy to accommodate. The great irony of all this is that I rarely, almost never, went along on the trips, especially such a long one; I had a business to run," confided Nancy. "However, Robin told me that after speaking on the phone, they would feel more comfortable if I did. When I was still reluctant, she told me I had to keep it a secret, but the trip was for Whitney Houston, and that was it, she needn't ask me twice- I wouldn't miss that for the world!"

By Rosalie Klein



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morning "Kaffie Klatch" and triple points when using their membership cards.



Cool Casino is a great place to learn to understand such table games as Craps and Roulette, as they offer free instructions and minimums for beginners with which anyone can have fun and feel very comfortable. High-stakes tables and a major weekly blackjack tournament will

keep veteran high-rollers happy, as well as periodic special events that attract an international crowd; stop by and check their schedule.

Add to all this free drinks while testing the slots or trying your hand at the tables, and the opportunity to enjoy exclusive pay-per-view major sporting events at one of their dozens of plasma screens, and you can understand why loyal patrons find Cool Casino THE fun place to play. Slot machines are open from 10:00 AM until 4:00 AM daily, and gaming tables open at 5:00 PM; ask for their schedule of special events and bonuses, as there are so many choose from, but every day offers something to get the adrenaline flowing!



Parents Guide to Skin Protection



It's important to protect your children's skin from the damaging effects of the sun. No matter what they're doing or what time of year it is, if they are outdoors, they need to be protected.

escence is important in reducing cancer risks later in life. By building safe sun habits into your family's daily routine, you will make your children understand and get used to being protected against the sun and they will become more aware of the harmful effects it can have to their skin. Parents should take the lead by giving the good example; children will respond better when they see their parents protecting their skin as well.

Important recommendations:

- Wear protective clothing when out in the sun. Choose shirts and slacks made of tightly woven fabrics that you can't see through when held up to light.

- Cover up with Hats. Choose hats that shade your child's face, neck and ears.

- Apply Sunscreen every day on skin that is not protected by clothing or a hat. Choose a sunscreen with a high Sun Protection Factor (SPF) such as Aruba Aloe's Waterproof SPF 30 sunscreen for maximum protection. For babies and children under 2 years old, make sure to use a special sunscreen that gives extra protection for the sensitive skin such as "Waterproof Babies SPF 30" from Aruba Aloe. Remember to reapply after swimming, sweating or toweling dry if you use a sunscreen that is not waterproof.

- Use sunscreen even on hazy or overcast days.

- Keep an extra bottle of sunscreen in the car.

- Pack a bottle of sunscreen in your child's bag.

- Use Sunglasses that block UV rays and protect the eyes and the surrounding tender skin.

- Play in the Shade. The sun's rays are generally strongest from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If your children are outdoors, make sure their skin is protected.

- Teach your children the shadow rule. When outside, if your shadow is shorter than you are, it means that the sun is high in the sky and the UV rays are most intense.

- Protect children younger than 6 months of age with clothing and keep them in the shade.

For more advice on how to best protect your and your children's skin against the sun, please call Aruba Aloe: 588-3222 or visit the website www.ArubaAloe.com

Aruba Aloe products are available at most hotels, supermarkets, pharmacies and the Aruba Aloe Stores.



Aruba is one of the places in the world where the sun is the strongest. Located only 12.5 degrees north of the equator, the sun shines with maximum strength and penetrates the atmosphere with a maximum amount of UV rays. What most people don't know



on water and sand, which means that even in the shade you need protection.

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Hiddink joins Russia's big spenders Anzhi

MOSCOW (AFP) - Dutch coaching legend Guus Hiddink on Friday signed an 18-month deal with Russia's upstarts Anzhi Makhachkala that reportedly makes him

one of the world's highest-paid managers.

The 65-year-old former manager of the South Korean and Australian national teams became a hero in Russia after

he managed to turn its historically disappointing side into a stylish attack force that reached the semifinals of Euro 2008.

"Today Guus Hiddink signed the contract. As well as the post of chief coach, Hiddink will also occupy the post of club vice president in charge of development," Anzhi said in a statement.

Financial details of the deal were not disclosed but a Dutch news report said Hiddink could earn 10 million euros (\$13 million) a year in net salary that accounts for taxes paid by the club.

"I am happy that I got such an opportunity," Hiddink was quoted as saying by the club's website.

"I know the ambition of the shareholder, the club, the fans and the whole world knows about this now. And I will do everything to make sure that the team's game corresponds to these ambitions," Hiddink said.

The news could have far-ranging repercussions for European football amid jostling for managerial position at some of the world's most prestigious clubs.

Hiddink's Russian ties and reportedly friendly relations with Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich had turned him into the favourite of some British media to succeed the London club's embattled coach Andre Villas-Boas.

Anzhi for its part had been busy interviewing several of the biggest names in coaching to find the perfect candidate who could transform the one-time minnows into a Russian superclub with broad recognition abroad.

The team's owner Suleyman Kerimov -- a billionaire investor with stakes in energy and mining companies -- last weekend interviewed former England coach Fabio Capello as circulation swirled of his imminent appointment.

The Italian will now be free to look for other European assignments as positions shift in the crunch spring months of the football season.

Knuckleballer Wakefield retires at 45

MIAMI (AFP) - Boston Red Sox pitcher Tim Wakefield, whose elusive knuckleball throws baffled batters for nearly two decades, announced his Major League Baseball retirement on Friday.

Wakefield's 200th career triumph, achieved last September at Fenway Park, proved to be his last in a 19-season career that began with Pittsburgh in 1992 and 1993 and continued for the past 17 years with the Red Sox.

Wakefield went 200-180 with a 4.41 career earned-run average, striking out 2,156 batters in 3,226 innings. His 186 victories with the Red Sox are six shy of the team record set by Cy Young and matched by Roger Clemens.

After joining the Red Sox in 1995, Wakefield won 14 of his first 15 decisions and helped Boston capture the

American League East division crown.

Wakefield helped the Red Sox capture their first World Series title in 86 years in 2004, hurling three scoreless relief innings to collect a victory in a 14-inning fifth game of the American League Championship Series.

Boston won games six and seven as well to become the first club in Major League Baseball history to win a best-of-seven series after losing the first three games.

Wakefield won 17 games in 2007 when the Red Sox won another World Series crown, sweeping Colorado to claim the title.

In recent years, Wakefield served as a reliever and started at times for the Red Sox, who had no specific plans for him in the 2012 campaign.

Azarenka, Stosur reach Qatar semis



DOHA (AFP) - World number one Victoria Azarenka won her 15th consecutive match of the season to make the semi-finals of the WTA Qatar Open on Friday.

The Belarusian star defeated Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium 6-0, 6-4 to stay on course for a third title this

year, after victories at Sydney and the Australian Open.

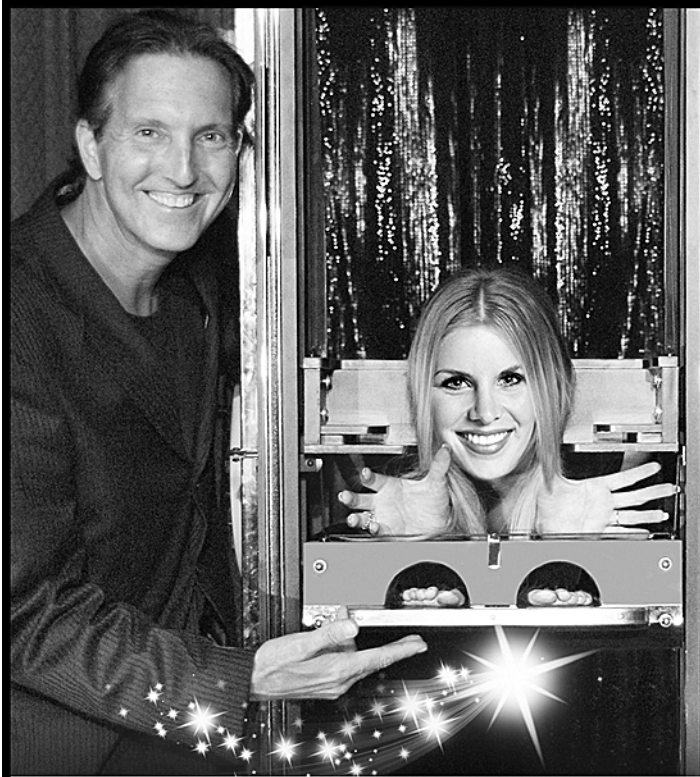
Earlier, Australian third seed Samantha Stosur overcame a spirited fightback by Romania's Monica Niculescu to advance to her first semi-final of the year.

Stosur, the reigning US Open champion, won 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 in a little short of two hours after totally losing her momentum in the second set and surviving a tough spell in the third when Niculescu took three games in a row to level at 3-3.

Niculescu had a wonderful opportunity to break Stosur in the seventh game when she was leading 30-0, but sent an easy volley long after a lengthy rally to give the Australian the opening she was looking for.

Stosur, the world's fifth-ranked player, latched onto it gratefully to hold her serve, before winning the next two games in a hurry.

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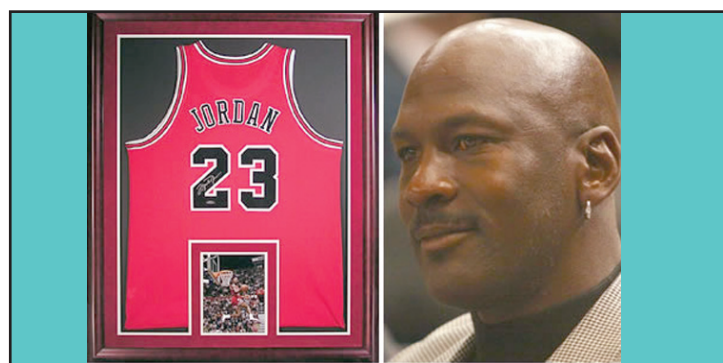
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Jordan hailed as greatest ever on 49th birthday



CHICAGO (AFP) - Retired NBA legend Michael Jordan was hailed as the greatest player in basketball history by two potential rivals to the throne on Friday as he celebrated his 49th birthday.

As "Lin-sanity" grips the NBA surrounding Jeremy Lin, the first US-born NBA player of Taiwanese and Chinese heritage who has gone from bench-warmer to star for the New York Knicks, Jordan's legendary career was recalled by other icons.

LeBron James, the Miami Heat star still searching for his first title after two losing trips to the NBA Finals, posted a Twitter message calling Jordan The G.O.A.T., for Greatest of All Time.

"Happy B-day to the person I idolized and wanna to be just like as a kid playing the game of basketball Michael Jordan. #TheG.O.A.T." James tweeted.

Magic Johnson, the former Los Angeles Lakers star who now serves as a television commentator, praised Jordan in comments for ESPN.

"His will to win was higher than everyone else's," Johnson said of Jordan. "His talent level was higher than everyone else's and then he was the ultimate competitor. He wanted to win more than anybody else I've ever faced in my life."

"Michael Jordan, happy birthday -- you know you were the world's greatest."

Jordan guided the Chicago

Bulls to six NBA crowns in the 1990s, winning three in a row before retiring at age 30 in 1993 to attempt an ill-fated career in baseball.

In March of 1995, Jordan returned to the NBA but the Bulls were ousted by Chicago in the second round of the playoffs. But then Jordan guided the Bulls to NBA crowns in 1996, 1997 and 1998 before retiring for a second time in 1999.

With high-leaping acrobatic shots and clutch baskets in the dying seconds of games, Jordan lived up to the Nike-powered hype as a generation of basketball followers sought to "Be Like Mike" and wear Air Jordan sneakers.

Jordan's endorsement power continues well after his playing career has ended. Forbes magazine has estimated Jordan's net worth at \$500 million, largely because his Nike brand items remain a \$1 billion moneymaker.

Jordan led the NBA in scoring for 10 seasons, seven in a row from 1987 through 1993 and again from 1996-1998. He was a five-time NBA regular-season Most Valuable Player and six-time NBA Finals Most Valuable Player.

He also won two Olympic gold medals, most famously with the 1992 Barcelona Olympic US "Dream Team", the first all-NBA squad to compete in the Olympics and still the most dominant team ever seen in the Games.

Unbeaten Rios, Gamboa book world title bout

LAS VEGAS (AFP) - Unbeaten former world champions Brandon Rios and Yuriorkis Gamboa will fight for the vacant World Boxing Association lightweight title on April 14, promoters said on Friday.

Gamboa, a 30-year-old Cuban, will jump two weight classes to fight for the crown after giving up his WBA and International Boxing Federation featherweight titles last March for missing a weigh-in before stopping Mexico's Jorge Solis.

Rios, a 25-year-old American, vacated the WBA lightweight title by failing to make weight for a fight last November against Britain's John Murray, whom he stopped in the 11th round to keep the title unclaimed.

Gamboa, who won Olympic gold for Cuba in 2004 at Athens before defecting, is 21-0 with 16 knockouts while Rios is 29-0 with one draw and 22 knockouts.

The lone blemish on Rios' record was a 2008 draw with US compatriot Manuel Perez. Since then, Rios has won 11 fights in a row, 10 by knockout and the other by disqualification. Gamboa has stopped foes in eight of 11 prior bouts.

Chisora slaps Klitschko at pre-fight weigh-in

BERLIN (AFP) - British challenger Dereck Chisora slapped Ukrainian champion Vitali Klitschko during Friday's weigh-in ahead of their WBC heavyweight title fight in Munich on Saturday.

During the customary face-off for the cameras, Chisora slapped Klitschko's left cheek and unleashed a barrage of insults at the Ukrainian, sparking a brawl involving security personnel.

"I'll sort that out in the ring," said Klitschko, who kept his cool while his opponent hastily left the scene.

"Maybe he had too much adrenaline," said fight promoter Frank Warren.

Chisora has a history of pre-fight antagonism, having kissed his opponent Carl Baker on the lips prior to a title bout in 2010 that almost sparked a fight before the bell for the first round had even sounded.

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100-year-old sets cycle record



French cycling enthusiast and centenarian Robert Marchand (C) is kissed after setting a new record in the Master 100 years category. Born on November 26, 1911 Marchand rode 24.25 km (15.1 miles) in 60 minutes watched by crowds of cheering supporters at the International Cycling Union (UCI) velodrome.

AIGLE (AFP) - French cycling enthusiast Robert Marchand set a new one-hour speed record on Friday -- at the age of 100.

Marchand kept a steady pace and was hardly out of breath when he finished, telling his fans: "I could have gone faster, I didn't want to."

"I could have done a kilometre more."

The feat does not threaten the 49.7 km (30.8 miles) achieved by Czech cyclist Ondrej Sosenka in 2005 at the age of 29, but it will be recognised by the UCI in a new over-100s category.

"It will be official," said Frederic Rey, an official at the World Cycling Centre, the

headquarters of the UCI.

Marchand, who marked a century in November, enjoyed cycling as a teenager but only returned to the sport at the age of 78.

Widower Marchand, who wore his club cycling gear for the attempt, said he would toast his record however.

"We are going to drink champagne," he said. "Just a little bit -- I don't really like champagne."

Marchand has led a colourful life, spending several years in Venezuela and working for a time as a lumberjack in Canada. But he claims he's nothing out of the ordinary.

"I'm not exceptional," he said. "I'm just normal."



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For Taiwanese, Lin is 'God' in a Knicks shirt



TAIPEI (AFP) - He's not quite a local boy made good, but he'll do: NBA sensation Jeremy Lin, born and bred in America, is inspiring a feverish following in his ancestral home of Taiwan, a society craving true heroes.

Lin, born 23 years ago in the United States to Taiwanese parents, only speaks halting Mandarin, but his triumphs with the New York Knicks are being hailed as grounds for island-wide celebration.

Lin, 191-centimetre (6ft 3in) Harvard graduate is the first US-born NBA player of Chinese descent.

"Hao the God: Writing a New York Legend," the Taipei-based China Times said, coining a nickname based on the basketball prodigy's Chinese name, Lin Shu-hao.

Sports journalists have gone into overdrive to unveil new tidbits of Linology, interviewing relatives in central Taiwan and excavating long-forgotten examples of academic work that got him into Harvard.

The Lin craze has also set off new interest in basketball in Taiwan, which has only a semi-professional league, with thousands of players now heading for the courts in their precious spare time.

"I couldn't sleep last night. I just couldn't wait to play basketball," said 29-year-old Winston Lin, a Taipei resident who spent several years in France and has so far been a football devotee.

Even for members of Taiwan's seven-team basketball league, Lin's story is an inspiration.

"The past record suggests it's nearly impossible for Chinese players to survive in the NBA, unless you're 229 centimetres like Yao Ming," said Michael Lee, deputy secretary-general to the Chinese

Taipei Basketball Association.

"It's dominated by Westerners, and especially African-Americans, but Lin has overcome his natural restrictions and played smart as a point guard."

Lin was undrafted after playing at Harvard University and cut in December by Golden State Warriors and Houston Rockets, but when he got his opportunity with the injury-hit Knicks, he grasped it with both hands.

Yueh Ying-li, a member of Taipei-based Dacin Tigers, said he was moved by Lin's determination and rigorous preparations, which paid off handsomely when he made it into the Knicks team this month.

"Chance favours the prepared mind," he said.

Hung Chia-chun, a 16-year-old Taipei student, hailed Lin as a star in the mould of Yani Tseng, the world's number one female golfer, and Chen-ming Wang, formerly the New York Yankees' ace pitcher.

"He's another glory of Taiwan," Hung said.

Over the past 10 days, Lin stories have competed for attention with another major story involving a young celebrity, who has been in the public eye for very different reasons.

Makiyo, a Taiwanese-Japanese starlet known for her hard partying, has been

indicted for involvement in the beating of a Taipei taxi-driver, setting off a bout of soul-searching about the lack of civility in popular culture.

By contrast Lin is a positive role model, and despite his tenuous links to Taiwan, he is a point of pride in an island which struggles for international recognition, according to political science professor Hsu Yung-ming.

"Taiwan has few stories with which to impress international society," said Hsu, of Taipei's Soochow University.

"So when persons like Lin emerge, people here share the pride and see him as their hero, even though he has few ties with Taiwan," he added.



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